

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application, and the indication that claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 12-15, 18, and 20-22 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection/rejection(s).

Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7, 9-15, 18 and 20-22 remain in this application. Claims 5-6, 8, 16-17, 19 and 23-38 have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, a few paragraphs of the specification have been amended for consistency with the claim amendments.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to overcome the claim objections made by the Examiner. Specifically, the claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that the main body is disposed on the second end surface and comprises a through hole having a first threaded portion and the pushing element comprises a second threaded portion, a first retardant portion and a second retardant portion adjacent to the first retardant portion.

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments made herein, and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan McClure', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel R. McClure
Registration No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500